DCEASED

1 of 6

THE END OF EVERYTHING STARTS HERE!

TAYLOR • HAIRSINE • HARREN • GAUDIANO • BEREDO

RATED T+ TEEN PLUS
DCCOMICS.COM

WHAT IS

THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS

PLANNING?

HOW WILL

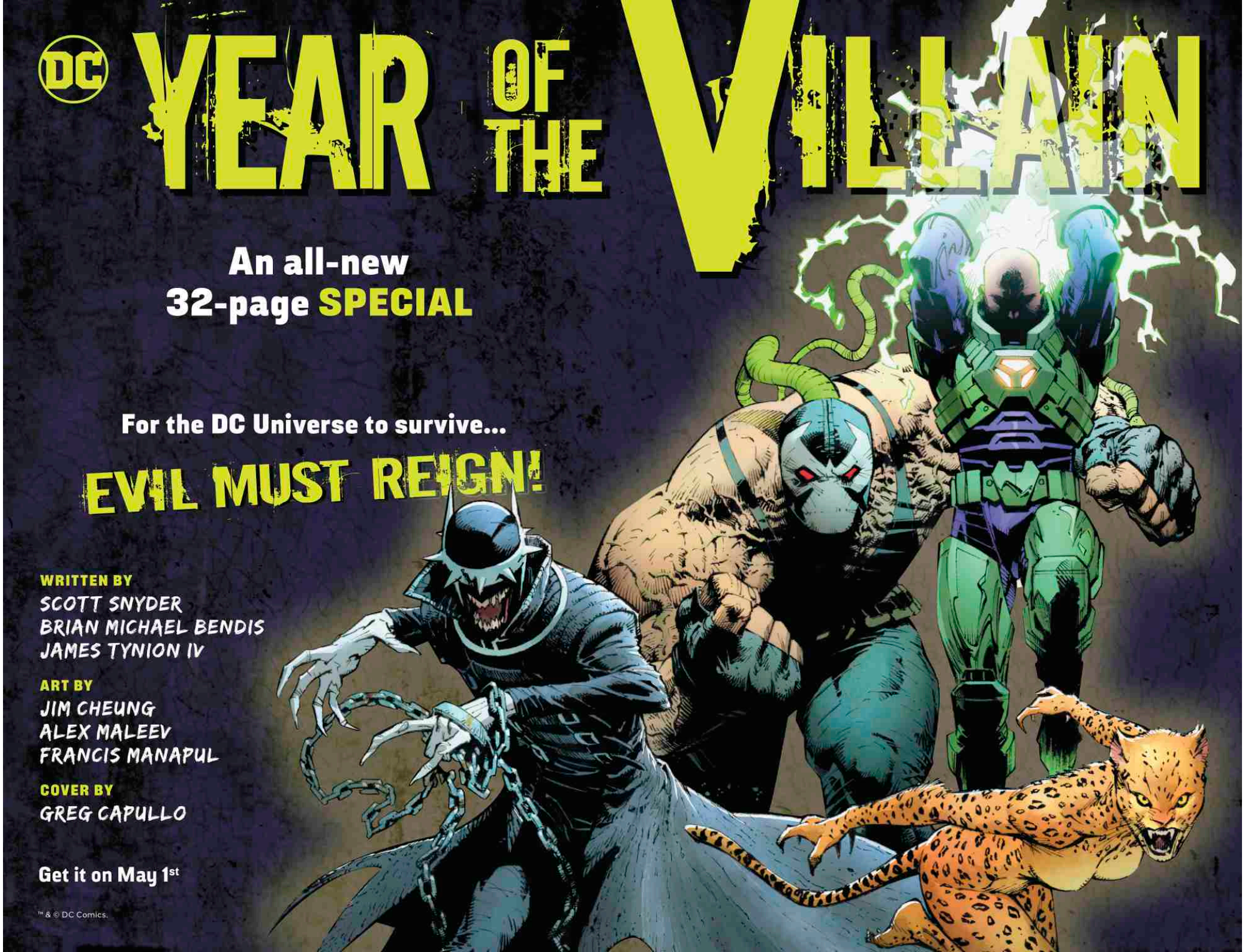
LEX LUTHOR

TURN THE WORLD TOWARD DOOM?

WHO IS

LEVIATHAN?

SECRETS WILL BE REVEALED IN...


DC
YEAR OF THE VILLAIN
An all-new
32-page SPECIAL
For the DC Universe to survive...
EVIL MUST REIGN!
WRITTEN BY
SCOTT SNYDER
BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
JAMES TYNION IV
ART BY
JIM CHEUNG
ALEX MALEEV
FRANCIS MANAPUL
COVER BY
GREG CAPULLO
Get it on May 1st
™ & © DC Comics.

My mother used to tell me there was no such thing as monsters.
There was nothing hiding in the dark.
Nothing was going to jump out of the shadows.

KOOOM

I wish I could have told my child the same thing.
But by the time I was grown, I'd seen too many monsters.
I knew they were real.
There was one thing I didn't know...

KOOOM

It started with something like thunder. I don't know how else to describe it, because it was a sound no one had ever heard before.

It was the sound of a Superman breaking the jaw of a God.
KRAM
Darkseid's invasion lasted a week.
The Justice League battled, tirelessly, for everyone. They kept most of the fighting to unpopulated areas.
They saved millions. Swarms of Apokoliptian parademons were repelled. Deities were driven back. And the ultimate evil was stopped in his tracks.
YOU WILL LEAVE EARTH, DARKSEID. NOW.
It was, perhaps, the League's finest hour.
It was their last together.
GOING VIRAL

writer: TOM TAYLOR artists: TREVOR HAIRSINE & STEFANO GAUDIANO (1-6,15-26) and JAMES HARREN (7-14)
colorist: RAIN BEREDO letterer: SAIDA TEMOFONTE cover artists: GREG CAPULLO and FCO PLASCENCIA
variant cover artists: FRANCESCO MATTINA and YASMINE PUTRI editor: BEN ABERNATHY

Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. Superboy created by Jerry Siegel! By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel Family.

YOU WILL NOT RETURN TO OUR WORLD.
SAY IT. THE LASSO OF TRUTH COMPELS YOU.
YEAH...IT WOULD PROBABLY BE EASIER FOR HIM TO SPEAK IF SUPERMAN HADN'T JUST BROKEN HIS MOUTH.
I WILL NOT RETURN.
I HAVE NO NEED.
FOR THE TRUTH IS...
BOOM
...I HAVE WHAT I CAME FOR

YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT THAT WAS GOING REALLY WELL, RIGHT UP TO THAT LAST OMINOUS SENTENCE.
ANYONE KNOW WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT?

DEET
DEET
WHAT IS IT?

CYBORG IS MISSING.
LAST I SAW, HE WAS CHASING A SWARM OF PARADEMONS OUT OF METROPOLIS. HE COULD STILL BE--

HE'S NOT IN METROPOLIS. HE'S NOT ON EARTH.
WHAT? HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I HAVE A LOCATION MONITOR RUNNING IN ONE OF HIS SUBROUTINES.
YOU WHAT?
HE'S A WALKING WEAPON WITH APOKOLIPTIAN TECHNOLOGY RUNNING THROUGH HIS BODY AND HIS BRAIN, WHICH WE'VE BARELY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE OF UNDERSTANDING.

IT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE TO ALLOW THAT KIND OF UNKNOWN POWER TO MOVE FREELY.

DID VIC KNOW YOU WERE TRACKING HIM?
SO, YOU SECRETLY HACKED OUR FRIEND.
WAIT. ARE YOU TRACKING ANY OF US?
DO YOU HAVE A TRACKER ON SUPERMAN?
...
NO.
ANYONE ELSE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT SLIGHT PAUSE THERE?
LEAVING ASIDE THE MORALITY OF THIS FOR A MOMENT, HOW DO YOU KNOW VIC ISN'T ON EARTH?
MY TRACKING SYSTEM HAS A TWO-LIGHT-YEAR REACH. CYBORG ISN'T IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.
THEN... WHERE IS HE?

APOKOLIPS.
Darkseid didn't invade our world to conquer. The Earth was nothing to him. He came for something else.
THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION...
...DO YOU KNOW OF IT, METAL MAN?
NO.

IT IS THE END OF ALL FREE WILL. FOR THE ONE WHO CONTROLS IT, IT IS THE DOMINATION OF ALL SENTIENT RACES.
YEAH? WELL, I TRY NOT TO KINK-SHAME ANYONE.

ALMIGHTY DARKSEID--
"ALMIGHTY" DARKSEID? WHY IS IT GODS ALWAYS NEED PEOPLE TO SUCK UP TO THEM?
IT'S A LITTLE SAD THAT AN ALL-POWERFUL BEING NEEDS CONSTANT REASSURANCE.

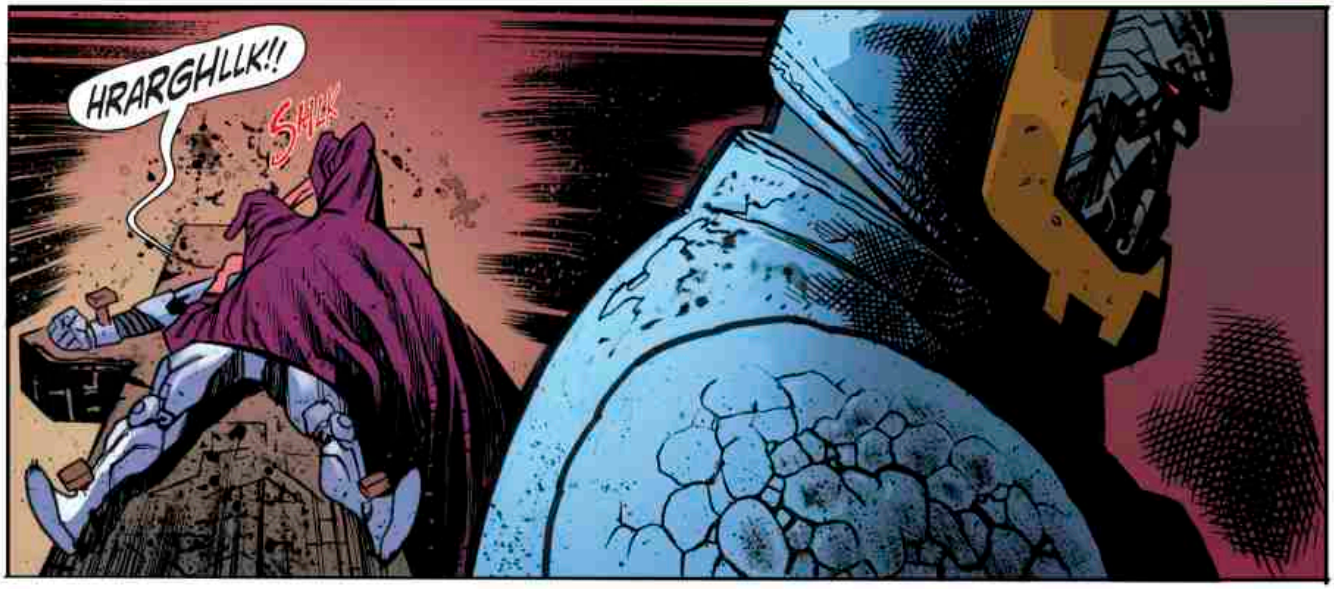
ALMIGHTY DARKSEID POSSESSES HALF OF THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION. HE BELIEVED THE OTHER HALF WOULD MANIFEST ON YOUR WORLD.

HE WAS, OF COURSE, CORRECT.
HE FOUND IT.
WHERE?

IN YOU.
PING
PING

WERE YOU...?
WERE YOU JUST WAITING IN THE CORRIDOR TO MAKE A GOOD ENTRANCE?

DESAAD.
REMOVE HIS TONGUE.


HRARGHLLK!!
SHICK

THE MOTHERBOX WILL ADD YOUR HALF OF THE EQUATION TO HIS SYSTEM, DARKSEID.
BUT THERE IS A PROBLEM.
=HLRK=
MERGING THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION WITH THE DIGITAL AND THE PHYSICAL WITHOUT DESTROYING THE HOST IS... UNSOUND.
IF HE IS KILLED BY THE PROCESS, THE EQUATION WILL CEASE TO EXIST.
THEN WE NEED TO CONTROL VICTOR STONE'S END.
I WILL SUMMON DEATH.
PING
PING
Darkseid called...

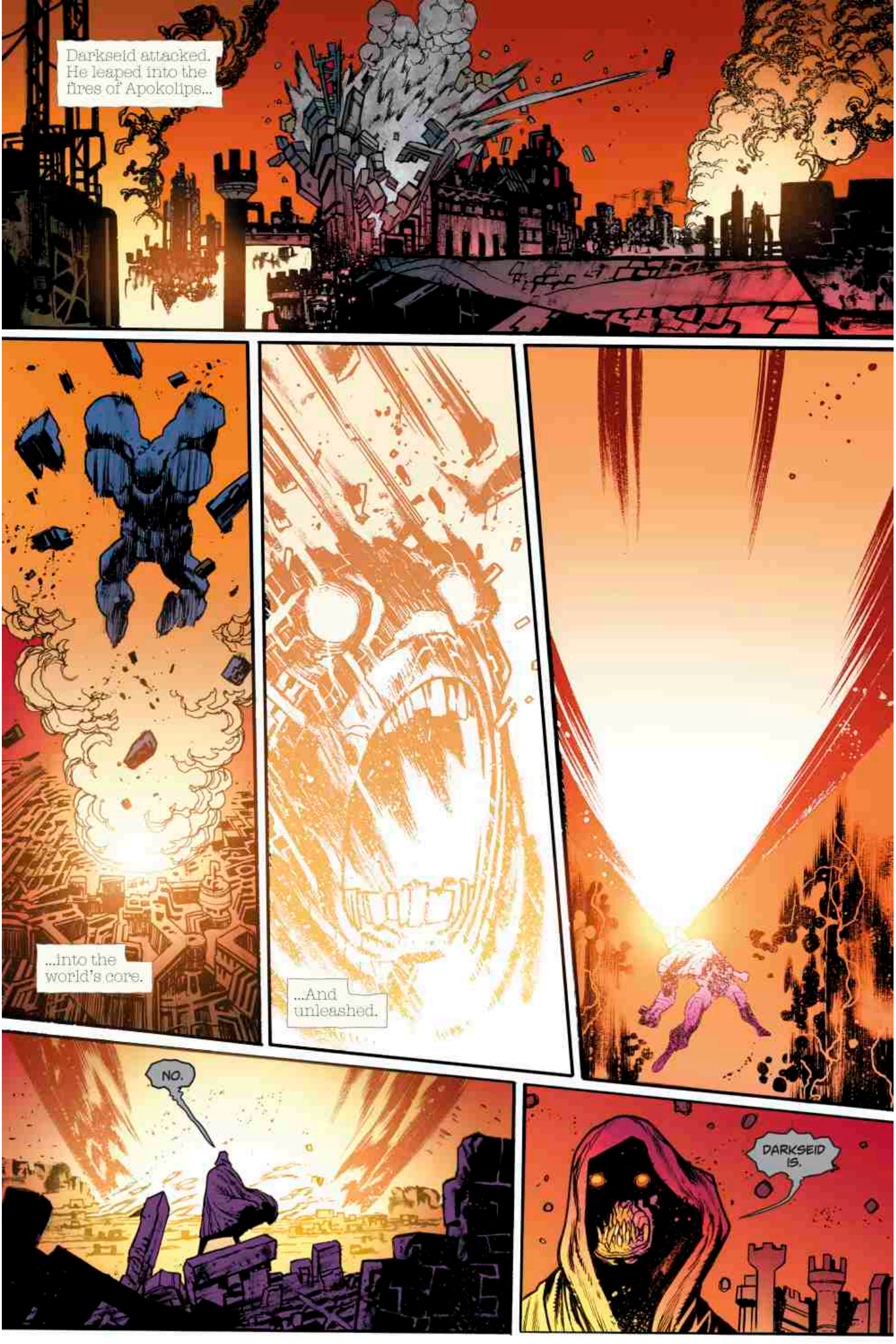
...and death came.
BLACK RACER. I HAVE NEED OF YOU.
Later, after his system had grown him a new tongue, Cyborg explained that this was their mistake.
DESAAD!
They took a piece of death.
>HMMMF<
PIG
PIG
LONELINESS
FEAR
DESPAIR
SHAME
FAILURE
And changed the equation.

This was the corruption.
KRAAARGH
MY HEAD. IT'S IN--

DARKSEID!
IT IS TIME FOR GOD TO DIE.
PING PING
HRAARGH!

The torturer, Desaad, was immune to disease.
BOOM
PING PING
But realizing what he'd unleashed, he tried to send the equation away. He sent Cyborg away.

But it was too late.
Their infected ruler was a slave to a new Anti-Life Equation.


Darkseid attacked. He leaped into the fires of Apokolips...
...into the world's core.
...And unleashed.
NO.
DARKSEID IS.

Darkseid was.

As soon as Cyborg returned to Earth, his system was automatically online.

And the Anti-Life Equation leaped from its patient zero to the internet.

WHOA!

Cyborg tried to firewall himself, cutting himself off from the world, but the damage was done.

The Anti-Life Equation began to spread as a techno-organic virus.

It attacked through social media, as a disease that bridged the digital divide to the biological, and infected the minds of all who saw it.

The infected mindlessly shared, messaged and tweeted the equation.

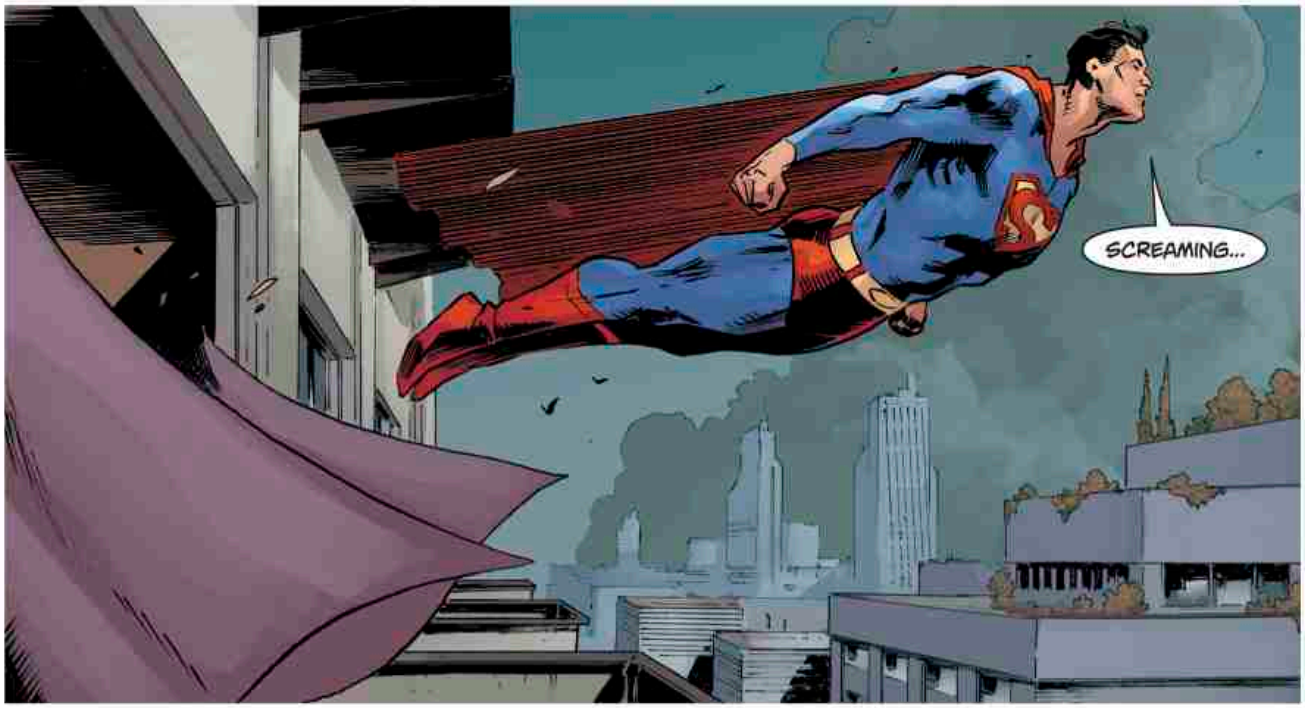
As it took hold, desperate, frightened people tried to tear the equation from their heads.
AGHHHH!

And then they were enslaved.
ARGGHHHH!

THE HOME OF SCOTT FREE AND BIG BARDA.
I APPRECIATE YOU WANTING TO HELP YOUR FRIEND, BUT IF CYBORG IS BEING HELD ON APOKOLIPS, I'M HIS BEST CHANCE OF ESCAPE.
YOU'LL GO?

WE WILL.
THANK YOU, BARDA. THANK YOU, SCOTT--

CAN YOU HEAR THAT?
HEAR WHAT?


SCREAMING...

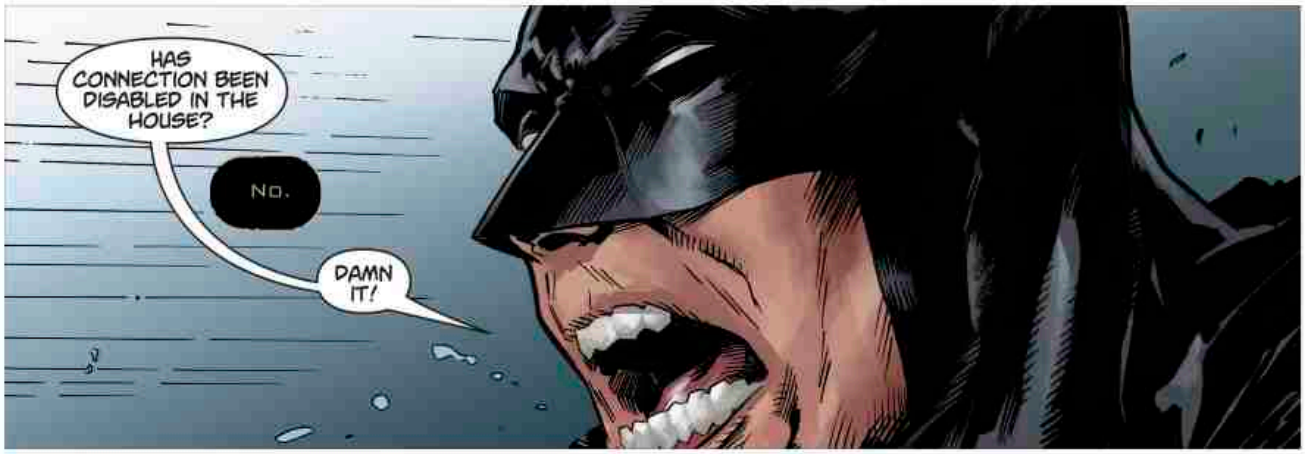
THE WORLD IS SCREAMING.
RARRRGH

JON.
LOIS.

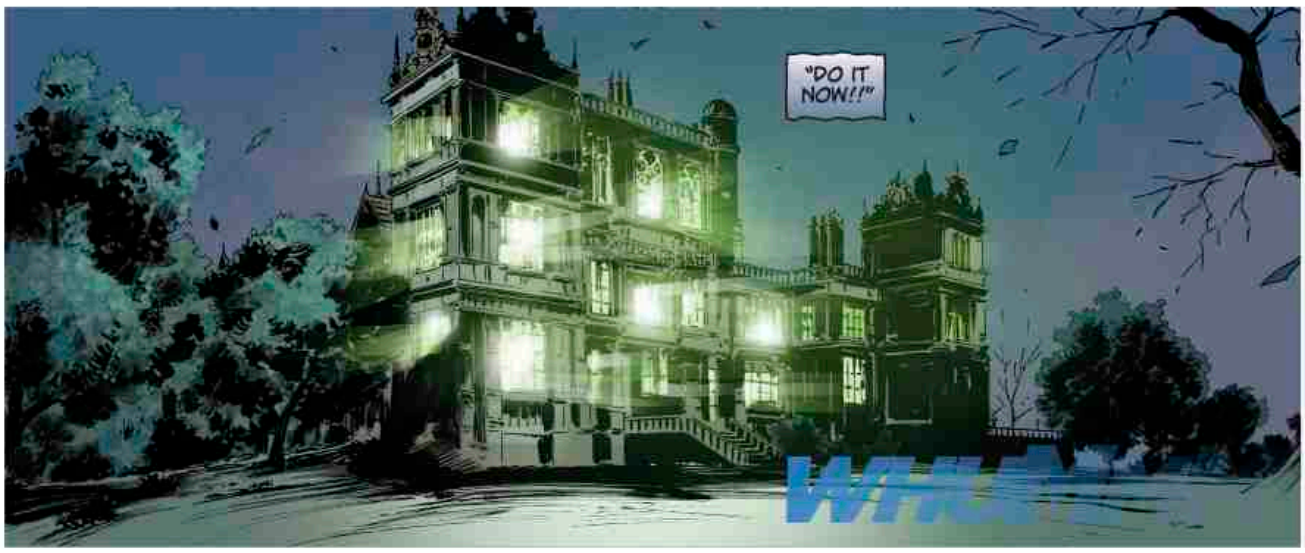
THE APARTMENT OF LOIS, JON AND CLARK KENT. METROPOLIS.
JON? I THINK I HEARD MY PHONE BUZZ. HAVE YOU SEEN IT?
DAMIAN? WHERE IS IT?
HOW WOULD I KNOW?
YOU'RE, LIKE, A SUPER-DETECTIVE. BATMAN'S SON SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND A PHONE.
YOU HAVE X-RAY VISION.
THAT'S...
...ACTUALLY A GOOD POINT.
THERE.
IT'S RIGHT...

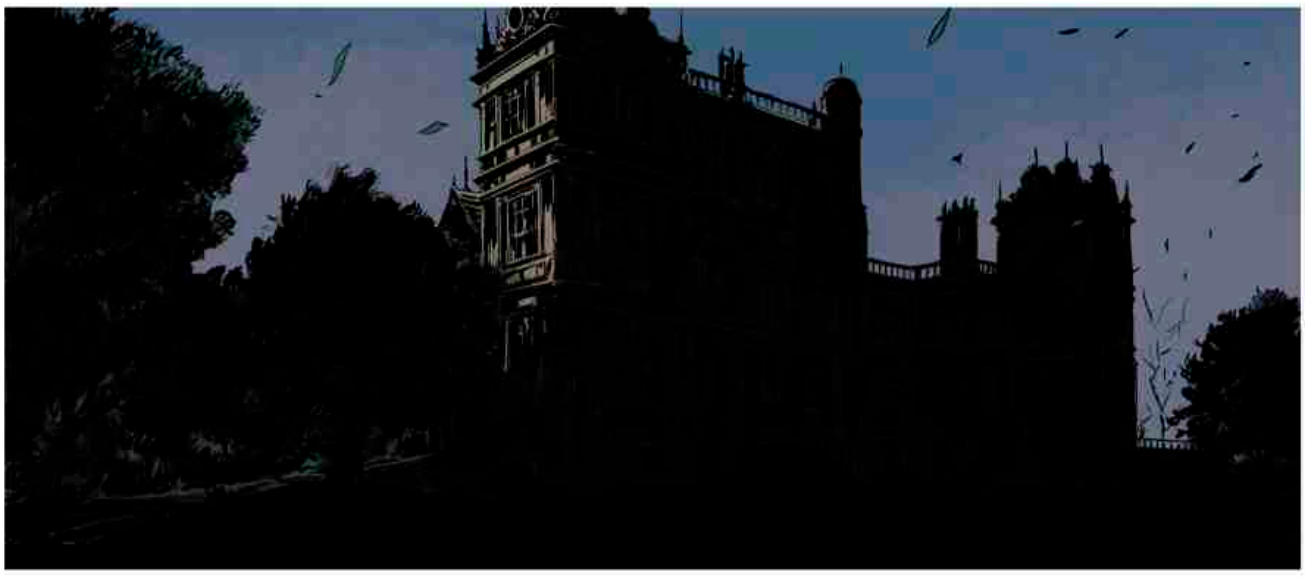
AGHH!
CSHH
DAD?
CLARK? WHAT THE--?
CLOSE YOUR EYES!
DON'T LOOK AT THE SCREEN!
GAH!

"NO SCREENS!"
VIRUS QUARANTINED. FIREWALLS IN PLACE. ALL SYSTEMS RUNNING ON LOCAL INTRANET.
CONNECT TO THE BACKUP ANALOG CAMERA SYSTEM.
SHOW ME GOTHAM.
ARGGGGGHH!
RUN PROJECTIONS.
BASED ON AVERAGE PHONE, TABLET AND PC USE, TAKING TIME ZONES INTO ACCOUNT...
...COUPLING THE DIGITAL WITH WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN AGGRESSIVE BIOLOGICAL BLOOD-TO-BLOOD TRANSFERENCE.
AAGGGH!
HOW MANY INFECTED?
AN ESTIMATED 600 MILLION WORLDWIDE.
AT THE CURRENT EXPONENTIAL RATE OF INTERNET DISSEMINATION, THE VIRUS WILL SPREAD TO ALMOST EVERY INTERNET-CONNECTED DEVICE WITHIN DAYS. BILLIONS WILL BE INFECTED.


HAS CONNECTION BEEN DISABLED IN THE HOUSE?
NO.
DAMN IT!

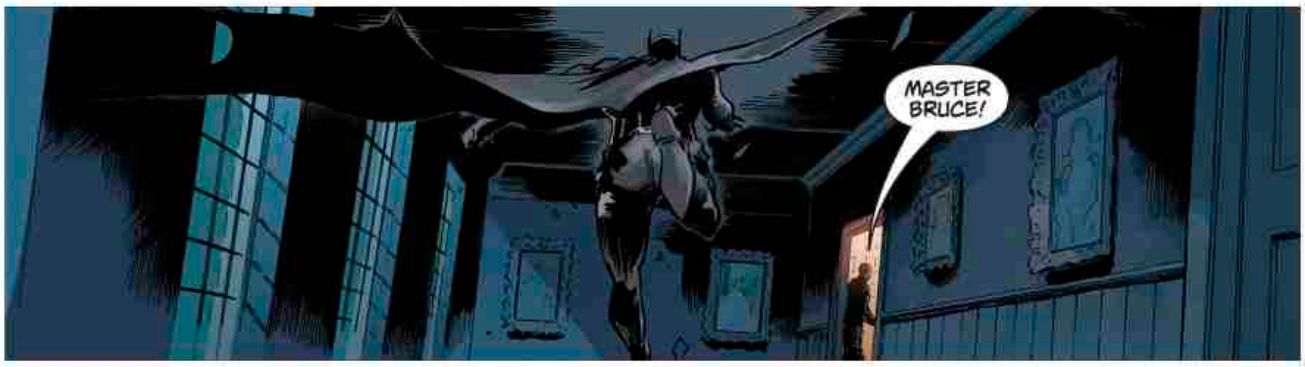
"ACTIVATE THE MANOR ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PULSE.

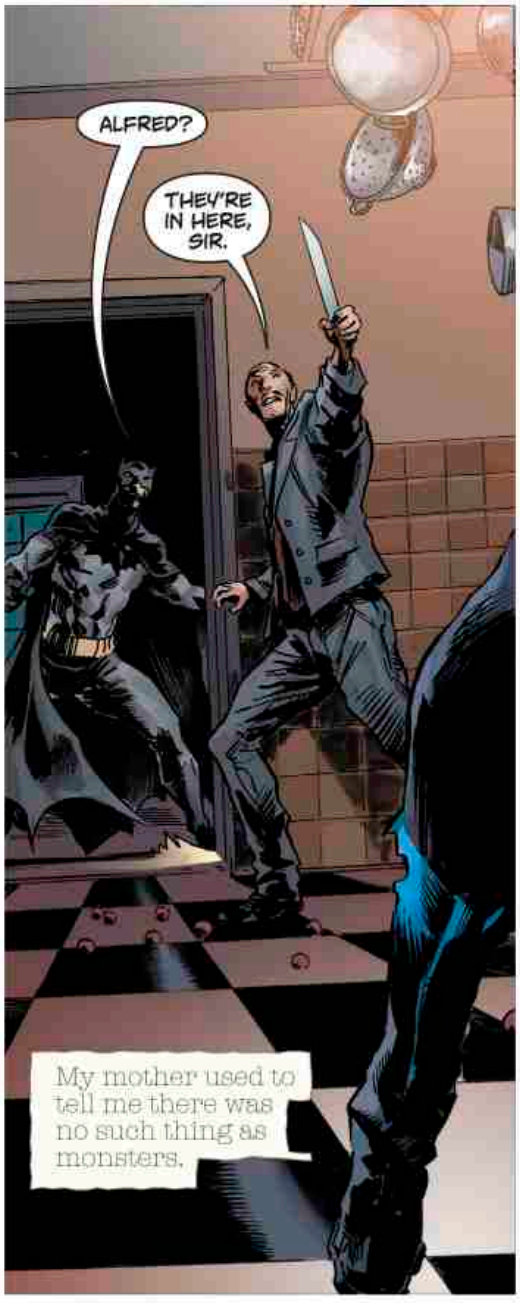

"DO IT NOW!!"
WHOA!

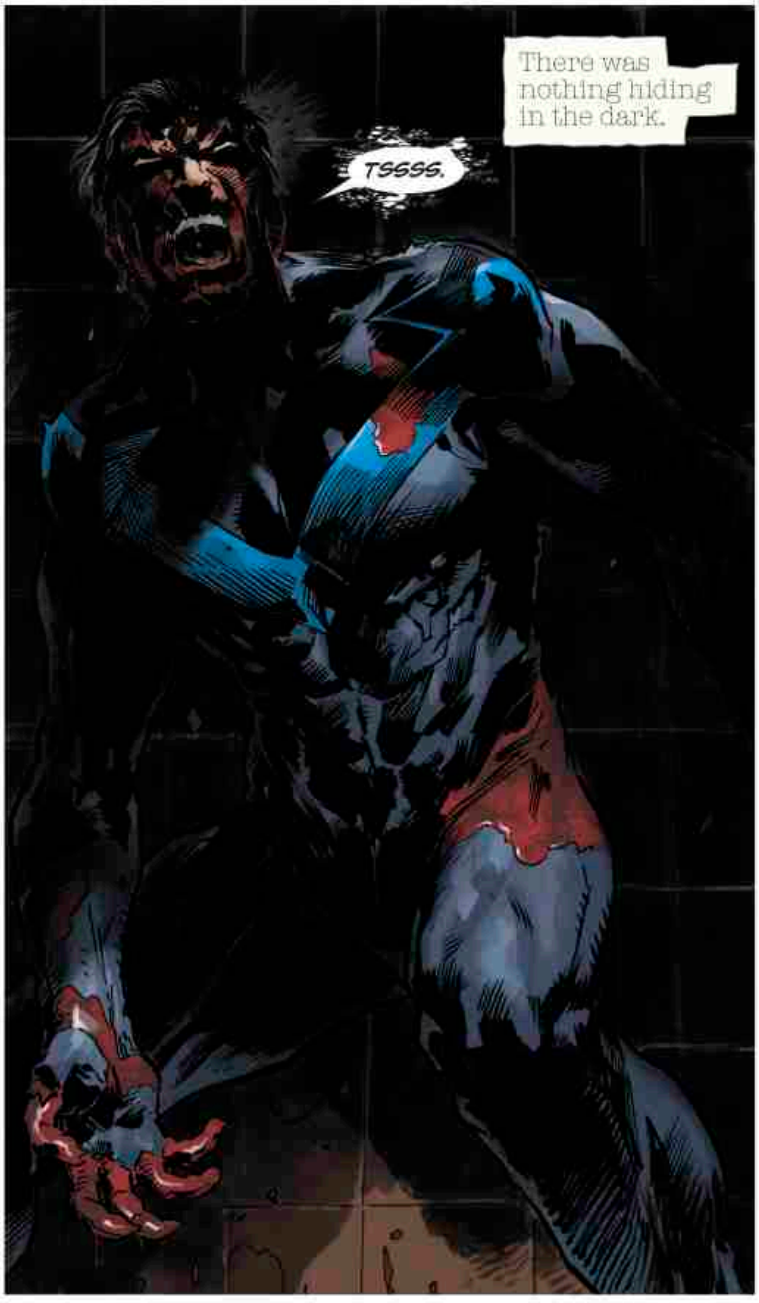


HOW DO WE HELP?
I NEED TO ASSEMBLE THE LEAGUE.
CLARK. LOOK OUT THERE. WHO KNOWS WHAT'S LEFT OF THE LEAGUE?
HE'S NOT ANSWERING.
HE...THE RADIO IS SUPPOSED TO BE ALWAYS REACHABLE.
HE'LL BE OKAY. WE'LL HEAR FROM HIM SOON. IF ANYONE CAN INTIMIDATE A SUPERVIRUS, IT'S BATMAN.
DAD SAID, FROM WHAT HE HEARD ON THE STREETS, THIS STARTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND, WELL...
BATMAN ISN'T EXACTLY SOCIAL.
EXACTLY.
BUT? LOOK OUT THERE. IT LOOKS LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD.
DAMIAN. BRUCE WILL HAVE CONTINGENCIES IN PLACE, AND THE END OF THE WORLD COULDN'T STOP HIM REACHING YOU.
IT'S OKAY, SON...

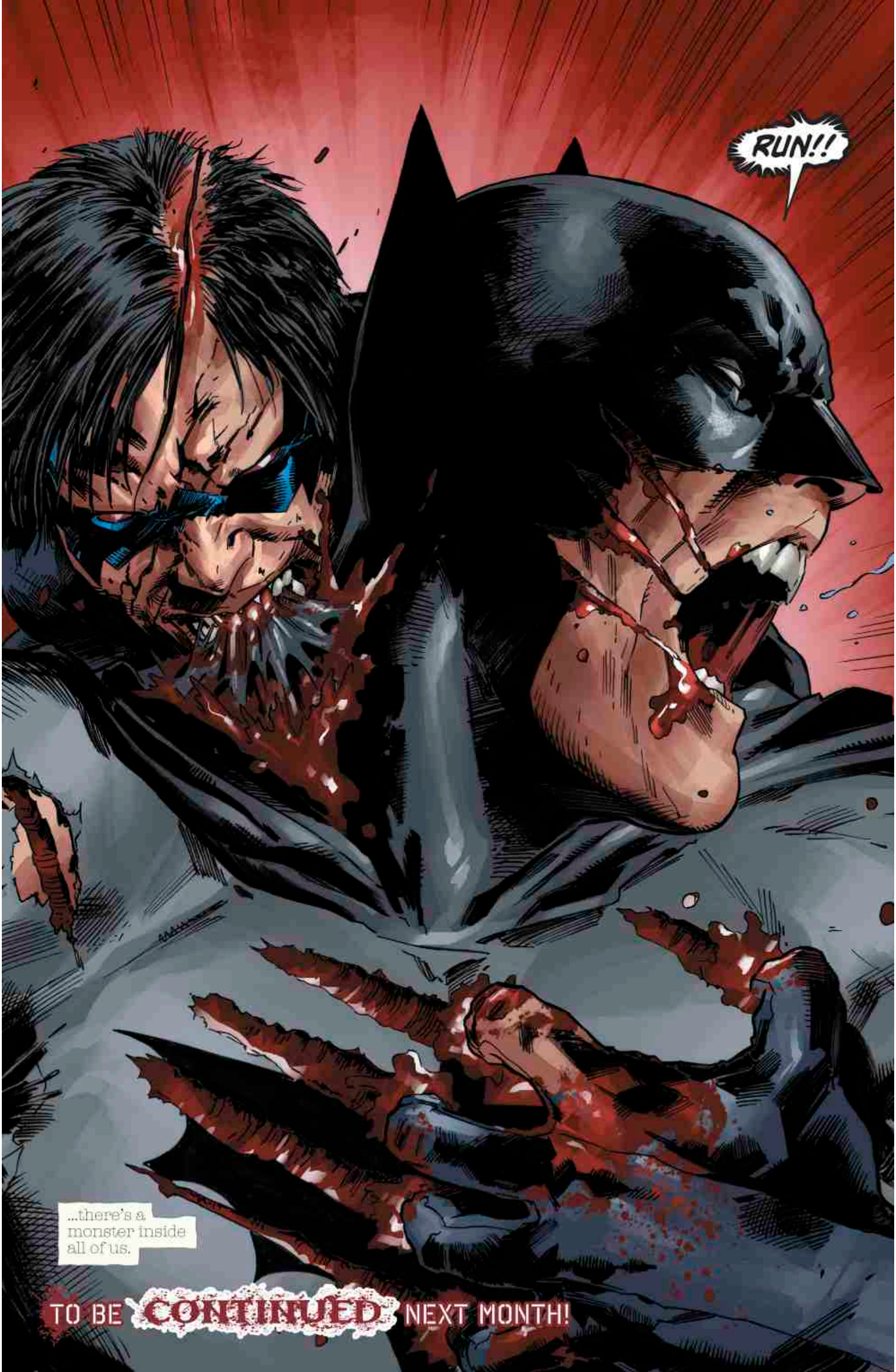
"...I'VE LEARNED NEVER TO UNDERESTIMATE YOUR FATHER."
DICK! TIM!
ALFRED!

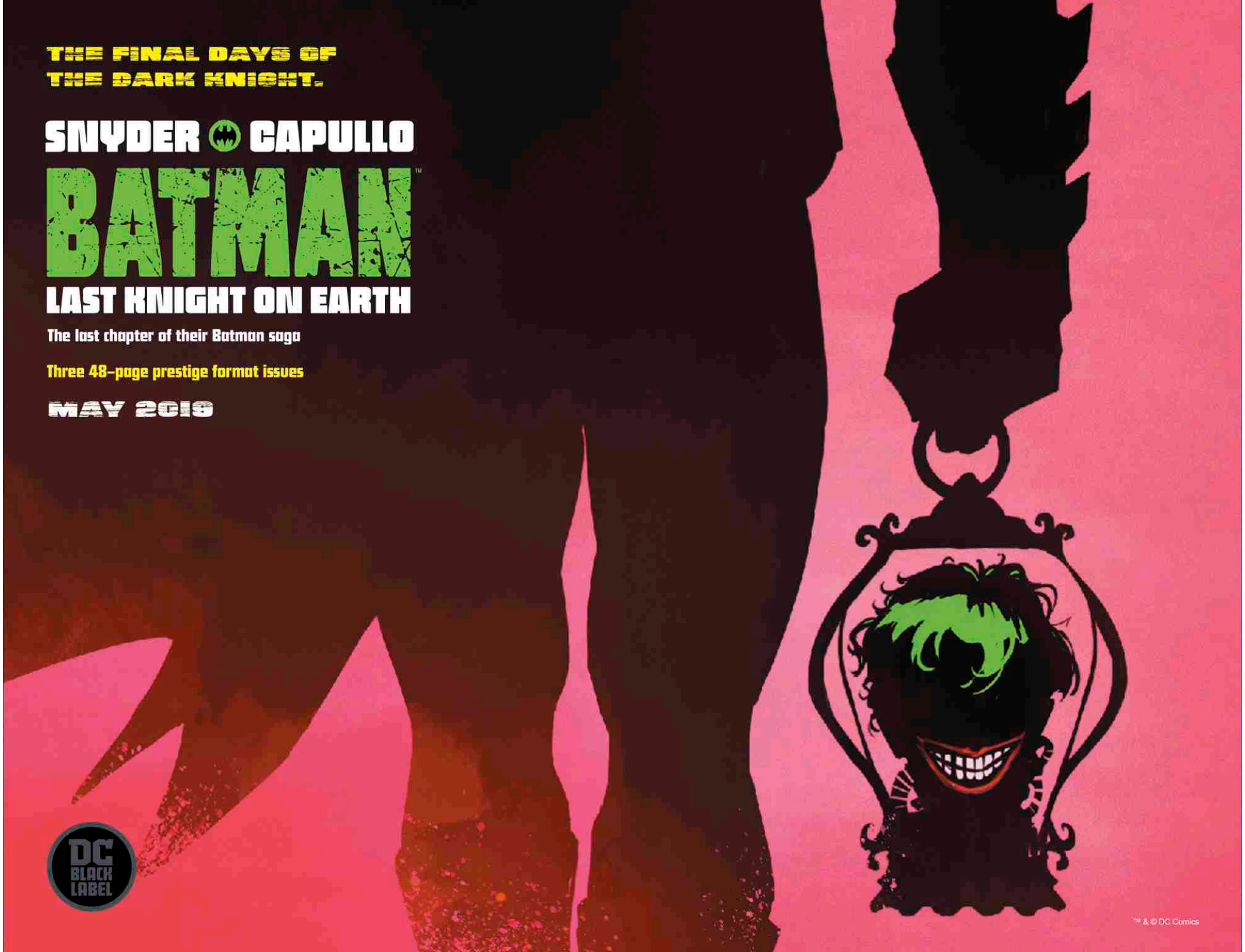

MASTER BRUCE!


ALFRED?
THEY'RE IN HERE, SIR.
My mother used to tell me there was no such thing as monsters.


There was nothing hiding in the dark.
TSSSS.

Nothing was going to jump out of the shadows.
DICK.
I wish I could tell my child the same thing.
DICK. LISTEN TO ME.
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.
SIR!
NO!
But by the time I was grown, I'd seen too many monsters.
I knew they were real.
MY GOD.
ALFRED. RUN.
There was one thing I didn't know...


RUN!!
...there's a monster inside all of us.
TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH!

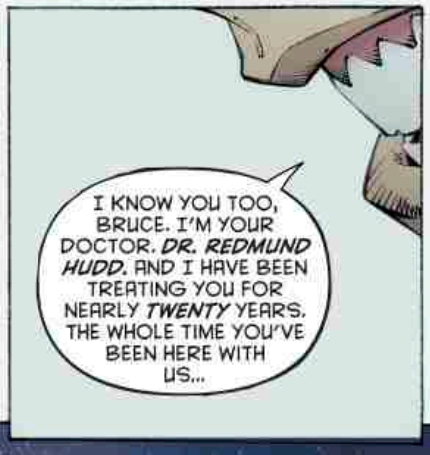

THE FINAL DAYS OF
THE DARK KNIGHT.
SNYDER CAPULLO
BATMAN
LAST KNIGHT ON EARTH
The last chapter of their Batman saga
Three 48-page prestige format issues
MAY 2018
DC BLACK LABEL
™ & © DC Comics

DC BLACK LABEL

Special Sneak Preview

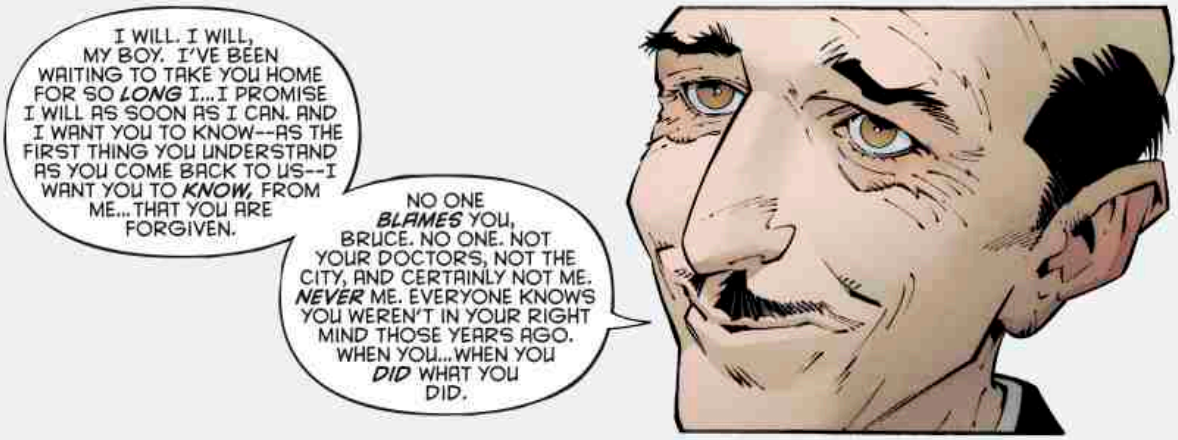
BATMAN
LAST KNIGHT ON EARTH
#1

Over...? You...
So weak... Whatv you... dunnnto m--
TAKE IT *EASY,* BRUCE. PLEASE. YOUR MOTOR FUNCTIONS, YOUR SPEECH, IT'LL ALL COME BACK SOON. IT'S A SIMPLE SIDE EFFECT. JUST *RELAX.*
No... yer tricking mmmme. Playinn a j-JOKe.
NO, I'M NOT.
I'M NOT *THE JOKER.* AND YOU'RE NOT BATMAN. SEE, THIS IS SOMETHING WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
WE'VE TRIED *EVERYTHING* TO GET THROUGH TO YOU, BRUCE. ALL KINDS OF *THERAPEUTIC* MEASURES. BUT NOW... FINALLY, A NEW MEDICINE, CREATED BY YOUR FAMILY'S PHARMA BRANCH, A DRUG CALLED *HELIOX,* HAS DONE ITS JOB.
AND YOU'RE HERE... YOU'RE FINALLY HERE, IN *REALITY.* AND FRANKLY... EVERYONE HERE... WE'RE =HEH=... WE'RE SO, *SO* HAPPY TO MEET YOU.


I KNOW YOU TOO, BRUCE. I'M YOUR DOCTOR. *DR. REDMUND HUDD.* AND I HAVE BEEN TREATING YOU FOR NEARLY *TWENTY* YEARS. THE WHOLE TIME YOU'VE BEEN HERE WITH US...

Nononono... no...Alfrd.
ALFREDDD!
SHHH. BRUCE, PLEASE.
Don't tuch me!
LOOK, I UNDERSTAND THIS IS A LOT. WE ALL DO. AND BEHIND THAT DOOR ARE MANY, MANY PEOPLE WHO WORK HERE AND HAVE BEEN WAITING TO MEET YOU--THE REAL YOU--FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
BUT BEFORE WE INTRODUCE YOU TO THEM, THERE'S SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU WHO'S BEEN WAITING LONGEST OF ALL.
HERE, LET ME GET YOU UP.
...no.
BRUCE?

BRUCE IS IT....IS IT REALLY... YOU?
DR. HUDD?
THE SCANS ALL SAY THE SAME THING, ALFRED. HE'S STILL WAKING UP AFTER THE SHOCK OF IT, SURE, BUT HE'S BACK WITH US.
BRUCE? BRUCE, TALK TO ME.
Alfrid, pleazzz. Pleeeze jus tak mmme hOm.


I WILL. I WILL, MY BOY. I'VE BEEN WAITING TO TAKE YOU HOME FOR SO *LONG* I... I PROMISE I WILL AS SOON AS I CAN. AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW--AS THE FIRST THING YOU UNDERSTAND AS YOU COME BACK TO US--I WANT YOU TO *KNOW,* FROM ME... THAT YOU ARE FORGIVEN.
NO ONE *BLAMES* YOU, BRUCE. NO ONE. NOT YOUR DOCTORS, NOT THE CITY, AND CERTAINLY NOT ME. *NEVER* ME. EVERYONE KNOWS YOU WEREN'T IN YOUR RIGHT MIND THOSE YEARS AGO. WHEN YOU... WHEN YOU *DID* WHAT YOU DID.

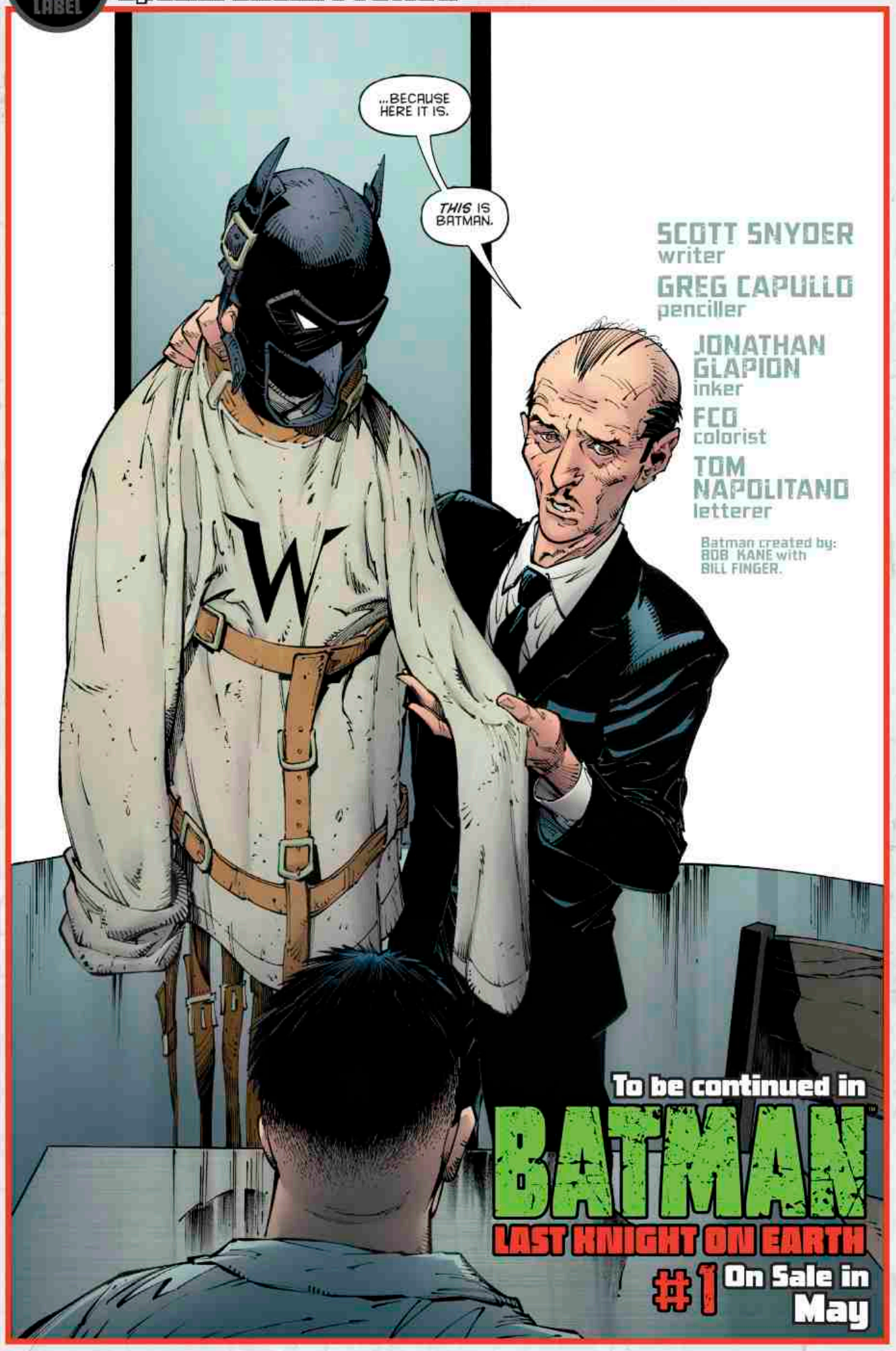
Forgivnnn? When I did wut...

Alfrrrid, did *wwwut... ?!*
...WELL WHEN YOU...
WHEN YOU *KILLED* YOUR PARENTS IN THAT ALLEY, BRUCE. I THOUGHT YOU...
...I THOUGHT YOU *UNDERSTOOD* AT LEAST THAT.
NONONO NNNNOOO!

LATER.
IT PAINS ME TO SEE YOU THIS WAY, SIR.
PAINS US ALL. TRULY.
MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.
BUT NOT NEARLY AS MUCH AS IT DID TO SEE YOU AS YOU WERE BEFORE. EVERY DAY, EVERY PASSING WEEK. UNABLE TO FACE REALITY.
IT'S BEEN DAYS NOW, SIR. HOW LONG BEFORE YOU ACCEPT IT?
WHY DO I KNOW FRENCH AND SPANISH AND ITALIAN AND MANDARIN AND--
Sigh. WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS. YOU TAUGHT YOURSELF HERE. THE LIBRARIAN, ELLIOT -- WHOM YOU TURNED INTO SOME VILLAIN CALLED "SHHH" OR SOME RIDICULOUS THING -- COACHED YOU.
WHY DO I KNOW HOW TO FIGHT?
BECAUSE...AGAIN, YOU LEARNED, FROM DR. ALGOL. IN THE HOSPITAL GYMNASIUM.
BEFORE NEARLY DROWNING HIM IN THE WHIRLPOOL, UNDER THE BELIEF IT WAS SOME KIND OF MAGICAL WELL.
BRUCE. I LOVE YOU AND I WILL DO THIS FOR AS LONG AS YOU WANT...
BUT I...I BROUGHT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU. I DON'T KNOW IF IT WILL HELP OR HURT. DR. HUDD, HE THINKS IT COULD BE DESTRUCTIVE, BUT...I HAVE FAITH.
IT'S YOUR COWL, BRUCE.
MY COWL? THANK GOD. ALFRED, THANK YOU.
YOU'RE WELCOME, BRUCE. TAKE A LOOK...

DC BLACK LABEL

Special Sneak Preview



SNYDER CAPULLO

BATMAN

LAST KNIGHT ON EARTH

A DC NATION interview with writer **SCOTT SNYDER**

Why should fans check this out?

This is meant as a kind of closure to the whole saga that Greg Capullo and I did. I'm very proud of it. It's way out there. It really has every character in the DCU, from Lex Luthor and Superman to surprising ones like Vixen. It takes place 25 years down the line.

How did you come up with the idea for this story?

I was at San Diego Comic-Con, and I met Grant Morrison for one of the first times, and I was completely a mess. I went through a period when I started on BATMAN where I was quite self-destructive. I just wasn't ready for the pressure, and all I cared about was this work. I'd be up all night working on it, and it hurt a lot of things. It hurt my family, it hurt friendships, and I think Grant saw that and pulled me aside and was like, "You're freaking out." And I was like, It's Batman! It's Batman! You know, I don't know how you do Batman. How do I keep up? And he said, Here's what you need to do. You need to give your version of Batman a birth and a death and just know it's yours and relax. It's your version. You're not fighting against Frank Miller, me or whatever to try and touch the hem of that stuff at all. And it was so honestly transformative for me. Zero Year, was the birth of our character. I wrote that right after that conversation, and it was our origin, and this is the story I started thinking about all the way back then. I'm not going to say he's going to die, but it's the end of our mythology. It takes all the pieces that we did from the Owls, the Red Hood, a lot of the things we kind of built and kind of brings them back to show where they wind up 20 years from now.

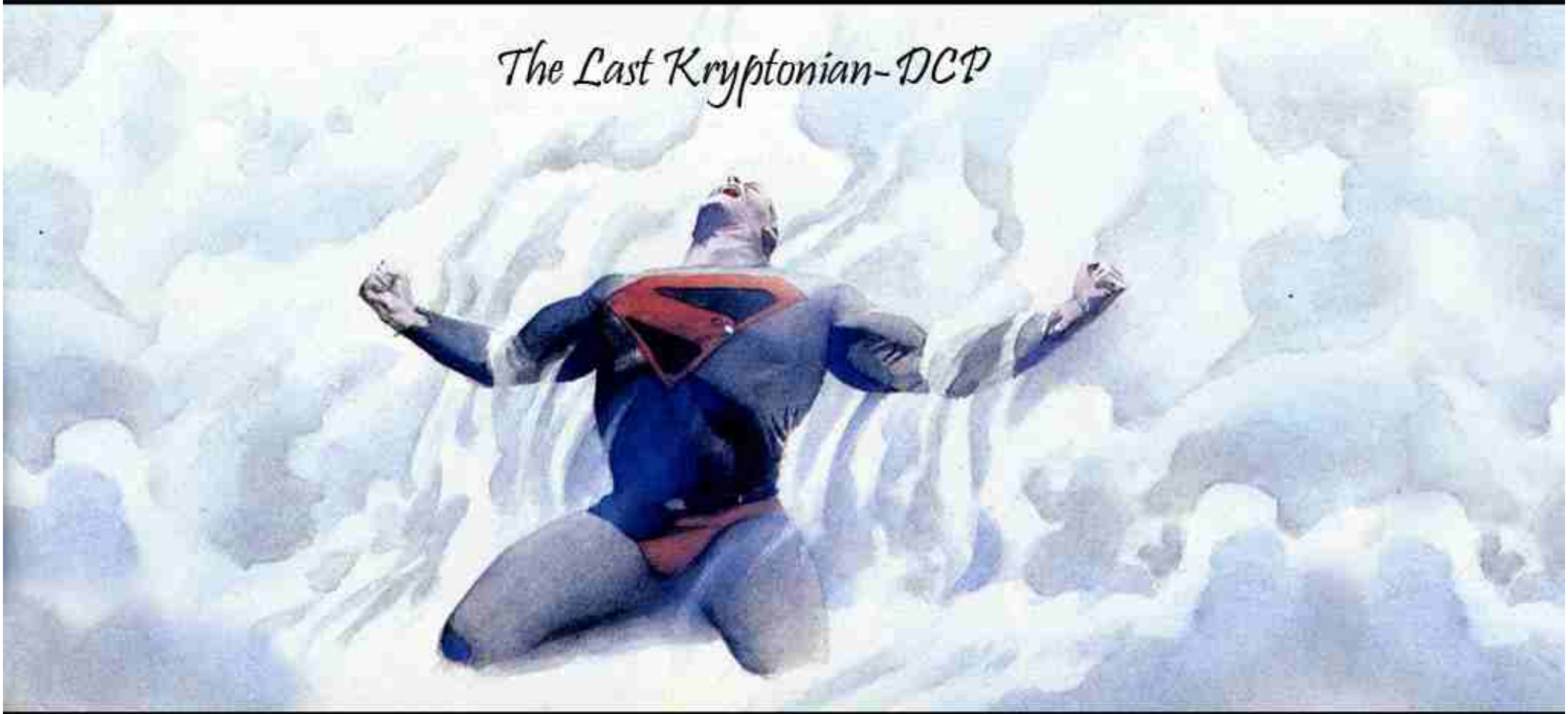
How will fans of your acclaimed run on BATMAN react to this story?

I try to put horse blinders on otherwise and not worry about fan reaction. It's not that I don't care, because I do, I care a lot, but if I worry about it I feel like I start to get untrue to what I want to do, and the times that I've really believed in something that seemed out there, like DARK NIGHTS: METAL, fans have really shown up and been supportive, so I have to trust that now.

ON SALE MAY 29!

DC COMICS BOB HARRAS Senior VP – Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics PAT McCALLUM Executive Editor, DC Comics DAN DiDIO Publisher JIM LEE Publisher & Chief Creative Officer BOBBIE CHASE VP – New Publishing Initiatives & Talent Development DON FALLETTI VP – Manufacturing Operations & Workflow Management LAWRENCE GANEM VP – Talent Services ALISON GILL Senior VP – Manufacturing & Operations HANK KANALZ Senior VP – Publishing Strategy & Support Services DAN MIRON VP – Publishing Operations NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP – Manufacturing Administration & Design NANCY SPEARS VP – Sales MICHELE R. WELLS VP & Executive Editor, Young Reader

DCEASED 1. July, 2019. Published monthly by DC Comics, 2900 W. Alameda Avenue, Burbank, CA 91505. GST # is R125921072. Copyright © 2019 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dccomics.com/go/ratings. DC – a WarnerMedia Company.


The Last Kryptonian-DCP